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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/698,329	ICE, DONALD A.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Dameon E. Levi	2841	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 02/17/2006(RCE) 03/15/2006 (Interview).
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 21, and 23-40 (Renumbered 1-19).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Peter Malen (Reg. No. 45,576) on 03/20/2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

AMEND CLAIM 21 AS FOLLOWS:

21. (Currently Amended) An electronic equipment rack for receiving a plurality of functional modules, each of which includes a corresponding card, the electronic equipment rack comprising:
- a chassis, comprising:
 - a housing;
 - a backplane attached to the housing; and
 - a cover attached to the backplane and to the housing;
 - a printed circuit board assembly substantially disposed within the chassis;
 - and
 - a plurality of card guides substantially disposed within the chassis in a spaced apart arrangement with respect to each other, each of the card guides being configured to interface with a card of a functional module.

and each of the card guides [being engaged with the printed circuit board assembly, the backplane and the cover] including:

a first engagement element that engages the printed circuit board assembly;

a second engagement element that engages the backplane; and

a third engagement element that engages the cover.

CANCEL CLAIM 22:

AMEND CLAIM 23 AS FOLLOWS:

23. (Currently Amended) The electronic equipment rack as recited in claim [22] 21, wherein the cover includes a self-clinching tie mount arranged to engage the third engagement element.

AMEND CLAIM 30 AS FOLLOWS:

30. (Currently Amended) The electronic equipment rack as recited in claim [33] 21, wherein the plurality of card guides collectively define:
at least two stacked card storage slots; and
at least two side-by-side card storage slots.

AMEND CLAIM 31 AS FOLLOWS

31. (Currently Amended) A [fastenerless] connection system, comprising:
a plurality of engagement elements, where:

a first engagement element of the plurality comprises a portion of a printed circuit board assembly;

a second engagement element of the plurality comprises a portion of a backplane of an electronic equipment chassis; and

a third engagement element of the plurality comprises a portion of a cover of an electronic equipment chassis; and

corresponding structure configured to engage the plurality of engagement elements in a fastenerless arrangement, the corresponding structure comprising a portion of one or more card guides, each of the card guides being configured to interface with a card of a functional module.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 21, and 23-40 (Renumbered 1-19) are allowable.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: In response to remarks and claim amendments made in Applicant's Request for Continued Examination submitted 02/17/2006, as well as, an Interview on 03/15/2006, and, upon conclusion of a comprehensive search of the pertinent prior art, the Office indicates that the claims, as amended, are allowable.

Regarding claim 21, patentability exists, at least in part, with a plurality of card guides substantially disposed within the chassis in a spaced apart arrangement with respect to each other, each of the card guides including: a first engagement element that engages the printed circuit board assembly; a second engagement element that engages the backplane; and a third engagement element that engages the cover.

Regarding claim 31, patentability exists, as least in part, with a first engagement element of the plurality comprises a portion of a printed circuit board assembly; a second engagement element of the plurality comprises a portion of a backplane of an electronic equipment chassis; and a third engagement element of the plurality comprises a portion of a cover of an electronic equipment chassis; and corresponding structure configured to engage the plurality of engagement elements in a fastenerless arrangement, the corresponding structure comprising a portion of one or more card guides.

Regarding claim 34, patentability exists, at least in part, with a plurality of self-clinching tie mounts attached to the cover; a printed circuit board assembly substantially disposed within the interior of the electronic equipment chassis; and a plurality of card guides disposed within the chassis in a spaced apart arrangement with respect to each other, each of the card guides engaged with a corresponding self-clinching tie mount.

Lehman et al US Patent 6198633, and Weng US Patent 6038126 are cited as disclosing elements of the claimed invention including a chassis, comprising: a housing; a backplane attached to the housing; and a cover attached to the backplane and to the housing; a printed circuit board assembly substantially disposed within the chassis; and a plurality of card guides substantially disposed within the chassis in a spaced apart arrangement with respect to each other.

The prior art does not fairly teach or suggest all the elements, or, structure configured as such, alone, or, in combination in the manner as claimed by the Applicant.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dameon E. Levi whose telephone number is (571) 272-2105. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. (9:00 - 5:00).

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kamand Cuneo can be reached on (571) 272-1957. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DEL

Dameon E Levi
Examiner
Art Unit 2841



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